

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. No claims have been allowed. Claims 1, 21, 22, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, and 40 are independent.

Cited Art

U.S. Patent No. 5,881,145 to Giuhat et al. ("Giuhat") is entitled "Redirection of Calls to Ported Directory Numbers in Telephone Networks."

Claim 2

Claim 2 recites in part, "call signaling information." Applicant notes the Examiner's informal objection, suggesting that the claim should read "call setup signaling information." However, while "call signaling information" may be "call setup signaling information," it need not be. For example, the Application at Page 5, Lines 7 et seq. describes:

Call signaling information can be any of a variety of information, including call set up signaling information, such as a calling party's identity (e.g., telephone number), billing identifier, or another identifier, such as a dynamically generated identifier. For example, a dynamically generated identifier can be temporarily placed in calling party identity or billing fields. Identifiers can be stored in a list to be consulted for later processing (e.g., correlation).

Accordingly, the claim is not in error.

Patentability of Claims 1-11, 14-17, 21-28, 30-35, and 37-40 over Giuhat under § 102(b)

The Action rejects claims 1-11, 14-17, 21-28, 30-35, and 37-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Giuhat. Applicant respectfully submits the claims in their present form are allowable over the cited art. For a 102(e) rejection to be proper, the cited art must show each and every element as set forth in a claim. (See MPEP § 2131.01.) However, the cited art does not so show. For example, with respect to claim 1, Giuhat does not teach or suggest the recited "releasing at least the first call leg."

Claim 1

Giuhat's description of a second embodiment that avoids tromboning does not anticipate the recited arrangement, which includes "based at least on detecting the attempt to establish . . . a hairpin loop . . . , releasing at least the first call leg." Claim 1 recites in part:

based at least on detecting the attempt to establish the second call leg forming a hairpin loop in conjunction with the first leg, releasing at least the first call leg.

For example, the Application at page 4, lines 25 et seq. describe FIG. 2 as follows:

At 216, as a result of correlating the call legs and detecting the potential hairpin loop scenario, at least one hairpin loop call leg (e.g., the outgoing leg, the incoming leg, or both) is released while the call is routed to its destination.

In its rejection of claim 1, the Action relies on Giuhat's description of a second embodiment at column 7, lines 41 et seq., which states:

It should also be recognized that, although the above procedure avoids "tromboning" in the trunk 66 between the TELCO network and the CLEC network, under some conditions, "tromboning" may occur within the TELCO network. For example, if trunk 40 from the access tandem switch 38 to recipient SSP 10 does not have any circuits available, alternate routing might force the access tandem SSP 38 to route the call to recipient SSP 10 via SSP 14, i.e., using SSP 14 as a tandem node. This would tie up two circuits in trunk 42. This may be acceptable because it is under the control of the telephone company. Nevertheless, a second embodiment of the invention, which avoids such tromboning in trunk 42, will now be described with reference to FIG. 3.

Thus, Giuhat does describe "avoids such tromboning." However, in its description of the embodiment, Giuhat describes at column 8, lines 3 et seq.:

When the customer A moves from CLEC switch 44 to TELCO switch 16, the SMP 68 and SCP 30 are notified and make entries in the LNP databases 69 and 31, as before, linking the ported directory number 613 567 111 with the Location Routing Number 715 566 0000 of SSP 10. The software in SMP unit 68 is arranged so that, when it receives the original dialed digits in a TCAP query, the SMP unit 68 will return them as the "original called party number". No PODP or TAT trigger is armed at the Access Tandem SSP 38 to generate a TCAP query on the ported directory number. Instead, a routing instruction is made in its PODP table so that all calls to the ported directory number 613 567 1111 will be routed via trunk 40 to recipient SSP 10. All calls prefixed 613 567 will be routed to the CLEC via the Access Tandem SSP 38 which will be set up to translate calls to ported directory numbers to the tenth digit.

A sample call sequence will now be described, the steps being represented in FIG. 3 by encircled numbers adjacent the trunks and links.

Thus, while Giuhat does describe that the embodiment avoids tromboning, it does not describe that it does so by “releasing at least the first call leg” as recited in claim 1. In fact, even in the call sequence following the above passage, Applicant cannot find any reference to releasing any call legs. Giuhat is thus conspicuously silent regarding releasing call legs.

Applicant notes that no claim is made to releasing call legs *per se*. However, Applicant believes the recited arrangement, which includes “releasing at least the first call leg” is novel and nonobvious over the passages in Giuhat.

For at least these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 1 and its dependent claims, 2-20, are allowable over Giuhat.

Claims 21, 28-33, and 40

Claims 21, 28, 32, and 33 recite “releasing.” Claim 40 recites “release.” Accordingly, these claims and their dependent claims, 29-31, are allowable over Giuhat.

Claim 22

The Action rejects claim 22 over Giuhat. Giuhat does describe “avoids such tromboning”; however, Giuhat does not describe “processing the outgoing call leg and the incoming call leg” as a tromboning loop.

For at least these reasons, claim 22 and its dependent claims, 23-27, are allowable over Giuhat.

Claim 34

Claim 34 recites a particular arrangement involving connecting a first incoming call leg to a second outgoing call leg. As understood by Applicant, Giuhat fails to teach or suggest such an arrangement. Accordingly, claim 34 is allowable over Giuhat.

Claims 35-37

Claim 35 recites “operable to remove at least the call leg directed from the switch to another switch.” Such an arrangement is not shown by Giuhat. For the § 103 rejection, Bhagat also fails to teach or suggest the recited feature or how to modify Giuhat to result in such an arrangement.

Accordingly, claim 35 and its dependent claims, 36-37, are allowable over Giuhat and a Giuhat-Bhagat combination.

Claims 38-39

Claim 38 recites “operable for removing the call leg.” Such an arrangement is not shown by Giuhat. Accordingly, claim 38 and its dependent claim, 39, is allowable over Giuhat.

The Remaining Dependent Claims

The Action goes on to reject the various dependent claims over various combinations of Giuhat, Bhagat, Persson, O’Brien, and Clark. Without belaboring the individual language of each dependent claims, Applicant points out that Bhagat, Persson, O’Brien, and Clark also fail to teach or suggest the recited “releasing” or how to modify Giuhat to include the recited “releasing.” Accordingly, the independent claims are patentable over the various combinations of references. It follows, then, that the dependent claims are also patentable over the various combinations for at least these reasons.

Request For Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office Action in order to arrange a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite prosecution. Applicant submits the foregoing formal Amendment so that the Examiner may fully evaluate Applicant’s position, thereby enabling the interview to be more focused.

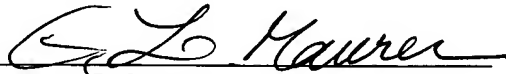
This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

Conclusion

The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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